

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application in view of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, Claim 1 has been amended to yet more clearly define the present invention.

Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the application is deemed to be in condition for allowance and action to that end is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 5-6, 8, 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by and Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maier, U.S. Patent No. 3,981,424 (Maier). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3, 5-6, 8 and 13-18 are patentable over Maier.

Specifically, claim 1 recites:

- (i) a housing having a cylindrical cavity (5), a piston chamber (2) and a channel (7) for communicating the piston chamber (2) with the cavity (5); and

- (ii) a sealing sleeve (12) located in the cavity (5) of the housing (1) and displaceable between a first position in which the sealing sleeve (12) is located axially away from the breech bottom (8) for enabling a sidewise feeding of a cartridge (10) for positioning the cartridge between the breech bottom and the sealing sleeve (12) and in which the sealing sleeve (12) blocks the communicating channel (7), and a second position in which the sealing sleeve (12) adjoins the breech bottom (8) for securing the cartridge between the breech bottom (8) and the sealing sleeve (12) and in which the sealing sleeve (12) does not block the communicating channel (7).

The foregoing features are not disclosed in Maier. In Maier, the piston chamber is located in the sealing member (2b, 23b, 46) that forms a rear part of the barrel (2, 23) displaceable relative to the housing (1, 21), not in the housing as recited in claim 1. Further, in Maier, the sealing member (2b) blocks communication between the housing cavity and the piston chamber when the

sealing member adjoins the breech bottom (Fig. 2) and opens the communicating channel in its position when the sealing member is spaced from the breech bottom (Fig. 1). Clearly, in Maier, the elements of the structure are arranged not as in claim 1, and the entire device functions differently.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Maier does not anticipate or makes obvious the present invention as defined by claim 1, and claim 1 is patentable over Maier.

Claims 2-3, 5-6, 8 and 13-18 depend on claim 1, directly or indirectly, and also are submitted to be allowable, claims 10-11 and 19-22 having already been indicated as being allowable.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawing be further amended or corrected in formal respects, in order to place in case in condition for final allowance, it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's amendment and the case passed issue.

Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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